



L-R: Seniors Katie Boer, Kearsen Boman, Rachel Fikkert and Jeannette Epley pose as Miss Jubilee Contestants in last weekend's Talent Extravaganza. For more photos turn to pages four and five of the Features section.

Elbert Bakker

Inside

RAs plan to gather aid for tsunami victims
Page 2

A fundraiser for a great charity? Should the Bachelor Auction happen at all?
Page 3



Dordt talent shines at the annual TX. Lots of photos inside
Page 4 and 5

Check out the new poetry and art submissions from our own Dordt Students
Page 6

Dordt under fire! Aliens attack! Are we living up to the name Defenders?
Page 7

Blade hockey enters the post season with high hopes
Page 8

Senior engineers design final projects

Joe Eggebeen
News Editor

Senior engineering students at Dordt choose to use their four years of education early this semester, as 10 mechanical and electrical engineers have paired up to undertake a variety of projects. Working with local businesses Pella Windows, Dordt and Groschopp as well as Adams Thermal Systems in Canton, South Dakota, the five groups have been working on five very different projects.

Andringa and Woiwood will be concentrating on mechanical engineering at Adams Thermal Systems while Karlsgodt and Boerman begin work on electrical engineering at the same location. Jeremy Groeneweg and Nate Murphy will be designing a magnet tester for Groschopp, while Steve Daining and Nathan Dockter are drawing up plans for a heater for the greenhouse at Dordt. Finally, Eric Gritter and Dan Gudmunson will be working

at Pella Windows.

Working at ATS in Canton, Andringa and Woiwood decided on three projects. One of these was in a painting room, which needed to stay at a temperature of 425 degrees. The pair is working on a proposal to insulate the room. Ideally, the insulation process and materials would pay for themselves in about half a year. A second project surveys the compressed air system in the plant. Borrowing a leak-finding machine, the duo hopes to find and fix leaks in the piping while determining if the machine is a worthwhile investment.

The group's third project involves replacing an expensive, inefficient boiler with a heat exchanger, which would pull heat out of hot exhaust plumes. While the boiler currently keeps 2 tanks of water at 120 degrees and two other tanks at about 70 degrees, it also requires constant maintenance as well as a full fuel tank and annual inspections.

A heat exchanger would need

only an electric pump to move the heat absorbing fluid from the hot exhaust to the tanks of water. Four exhaust lines could be used to keep the tanks up to temperature. Although more expensive initially, this changeover would pay for itself in about 4 years.

Also working at ATS, Boerman and Karlsgodt are engineering three projects as well. The first is a survey of all the major electricity-using equipment, determining a usage schedule. Later on, this information will be the basis of a database which will determine a usage schedule in order to keep the use of electricity to a constant level, which should reduce utility bills.

Secondly, these two engineers are working on a proposal to change the lighting from mercury halide bulbs to one of a number of different types. This change should decrease energy consumption by about half, while still providing all of the necessary light. Lastly, Boerman and Karlsgodt are designing an envi-

ronmental failsafe for getting rid of waste water. Wastewater is manually treated to neutralize acids and bases as well as remove various contaminants. However, there still exists a threat of an accidental release, possibly harming the surrounding environment.

With the new system, no water could be released unless it had the correct pH, the correct temperature and a low enough level of contaminants. "I'm a big fan of the environment—outdoors, camping, recreation—and I would like to see it preserved, kept clean, kept from stinking," Karlsgodt said.

Engineers Nate Murphy and Jeremy Groeneweg are working on a machine to measure the strength of the field of a magnet. The machine would use a program to revolve the magnet being tested, while a moveable sensor finds the poles of the magnet as it determines the magnetic strength. This machine would check the shape and strength of magnets...

Continued on page 2

Fast Forward

Jill Hiemstra
Staff Writer

Music department vocal performance

"Words and Music" will be the theme as four of Dordt College's vocal groups perform at the B.J. Haan Auditorium on Friday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m. The program will explore the connection between poetry and its musical setting. Dr. Benjamin Kornelis will direct the Kantorei, Chorale and Concert Choir, with a bonus men's choir selection and a combined mass choir number finale. The concert is free, with a freewill offering being taken for music scholarship awards.

Hockey Nights in Sioux Center

The Dordt Blades will be taking on the University of South Dakota at the All Seasons Center Vernon Arena this coming weekend. Game times are Friday at 8:30 and Saturday at 4:30. The Blades currently have a 17-6 record and are approaching the post-season as a major contender. For more information on the hockey team, check out the Sports section on page 8, or visit the Blades' website on DENIS.

February Mondays

On Monday, February 21 at 9:00pm in CL 160 the Spiritual Activities Committee will hold the third February Monday of the month. This week's topic deals with the hotly-contested issue of mandatory chapel. Join together with faculty and students and listen to a formal debate as proponents of each position present their arguments. Respond, and let your voice and opinion be heard on campus.

Southview RAs sponsor coin drive

Senior projects
(Continued from page 1)



Sara Prins

The four jugs that are set aside for donations to aid tsunami victims are located directly in front of the library's main desk.

Kimberly Lucier
Staff Writer

Until the middle of March, the Tsunami Coin Drive will provide Dordt students with an opportunity to donate money towards the tsunami relief. The Southview RAs

decided to raise money by placing four Culligan water jugs in the library.

The RAs are hoping that the noise of dropping coins in a quiet setting will catch the attention of nearby students. These students may be willing to donate money as well. Each jug is labeled by class for competition purposes. The class that donates the most money will win a prize, which is currently "under wraps."

"We did not want to go around and ask for money over the course of a week or so. We wanted people to be reminded of the event over a longer period of time," says CA Myron Kamper. "Having the coin drive in the library will give students a constant reminder of the many thousands displaced, injured or killed in the tsunami."

Funds from the coin drive will be given to the Middle Eastern Reformed Fellowship (MERF). This non-profit, non-political organization strives to plant

churches, conduct seminars and provide radio broadcasts and publications about the Reformed faith.

"If we could raise a significant amount of money, \$200 or \$300, then people on campus can say, 'I helped out. By the Grace of God, I was able to sacrifice five cents, a load of laundry, etc., to give someone else a second chance,'" RA Rachel Pontier said.

Kara Bouma, a senior, currently has two cousins teaching ESL in Thailand. She says, "I think that the Tsunami Coin Drive is a great idea and people should get involved.... I definitely hope to help out with this effort as much as I can."

Throughout the year, various fundraising efforts have been made available to students. This past fall, Student Forum organized a fundraiser for Warner College, located in Florida, which experienced extensive hurricane damage. T-shirts were sold to students and Warner College received this fundraiser's profits.

...used in electrical motors, the strength of Groschopp, Inc. Said Murphy, "If the rotors [magnets] aren't to spec, the motors will heat up—a waste of energy, basically." A hot motor may just waste energy, or it could lead to worse problems. This program would instill a higher quality to the electric motors.

The team of Steve Daining and Nathan Dockter is taking the two designs for a biomass combustion chamber and hybridizing the two. The two forms, a liquid sand bed and a gasifier, take any biological matter—wood, corn, paper—and burn it all. This would generate heat from a renewable energy source. The burner would be located in the greenhouse on Dordt's campus, to be used to heat the greenhouse.

Other uses of the biomass burner include studies of thermodynamics. Also, the burner will be part of a demonstration to be held this coming summer to show that renewable energy sources will work.

Along the way, this duo has been awarded a \$7000 grant from the state of Iowa to help fund this research. Ideally, a biomass burner like this one could be used by farmers all year long, to heat barn space or to dry out grains cheaply and efficiently.

Eric Gritter and Dan Gudmunson worked in conjunction with Pella Window Corporation to deal with the specific problem of water condensation inside trailers in winter. Warm, moist air from the inside of the factory drifts into the trailers, where it condenses on the walls and ceilings, falls to the floor and freezes. "Eventually, it begins to rain inside the trailers," describes Gritter. To counteract this, Gritter and Gudmunson have devised a method of drying out the air in the trucks as well as heating the walls and ceilings of the trucks in order to eliminate condensation.

The five groups will present their projects, proposals and results during Idea Fest, April 28.

Alumni return to honor retiring organ professor

Rachel Wielenga
Staff Writer

After 38 years of teaching, Dr. Joan Ringerwole will be hanging up her organ shoes, but not before hearing the talents she has helped create.

This coming Friday, February 18 at 7:30, three of Ringerwole's previous students will be performing in a concert to commemorate her career and retirement. The three organists all studied organ performance under Ringerwole before going on to eventually get their doctorates in Organ Performance. All three currently teach in the music field.

A 1982 graduate and northwest Iowa native, Dr. Laura Vander Windt, settled in Oklahoma after

receiving her doctorate in Organ Performance. She is currently the minister of All Soul's Episcopal Church in Oklahoma City, where she is organist and choir master.

Dr. Martin Tel graduated from Dordt in 1989 and continued his musical studies at the University of Notre Dame, Calvin Theological Seminary and the University of Kansas. He also spent a year studying in the Netherlands. He is currently the Director of Music and Assistant Professor of Church Music at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey.

Also performing is Dr. Christian Teeuwssen, a 1980 graduate who received his Master of Fine Arts and Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Iowa. He also studied for two years in the Netherlands and Germany before returning to his home providence

of Ontario, Canada, where he is currently the Associate Professor of Music at Redeemer College in Ancaster.

The three alumni have returned to Dordt's campus to honor Ringerwole on the organ they began their studies on. All three have chosen specific pieces to display their talents. Vander Wilt has chosen a composition by Mendelssohn, while Teewssen has chosen pieces by Bach, Reger and his own arrangement of a Sweelinck piece. Tel has chosen to play pieces by Dutch composers that are based on Genevan psalms so that the audience can sing along.

The outstanding talent of these organists is something that should not be missed. With the shaping of Dr. Ringerwole, they have become amazing musicians who, despite their busy schedules as organists,

teachers and preachers, have come to bless the Dordt Community through the sound of music. Through their accomplishments, we can see the impact that Ringerwole had on her students, Dordt's community and the musical world.

Said Dr. Tel, "She is an encourager, but not to the fault of misleading any of us to think we were any better than we were. Such loving honesty and provocation to work hard were essential in our preparation for graduate work in organ."

Be sure to stop by the B.J. Haan Friday night at 7:30 to witness some of the astounding talents that have gone through Dordt, to hear some breath-taking music and to honor one of the people who has put so much time and effort into making our education exceptional.

Out and About



Jill Hiemstra
Staff Writer

Another bad day at work

Looks like someone's not going to pass driver's ed: A student of DeKalb County Schools in Georgia was practicing pulling forward and backing up in a parking lot when she accidentally ran over her driver's ed teacher. Patricia Erwin, 64, was pinned underneath the car for 15 minutes and was taken to a nearby hospital to have surgery on multiple broken bones. She is currently listed in stable condition, and the student will not be charged.

Looking for some cheap gas?

Last week, George Riley's Phillips 66 gas station was selling gas for only 19 cents a gallon—but he didn't plan for that to happen. Unfortunately for him, a computer glitch in the system caused the price of gas to go from \$1.83 to \$0.19, and before Riley had noticed it, customers had already pumped 1,200 gallons. He is now out \$2,000 but is receiving money from area churches to cover his loss.

Underage intoxication = death

Dozens of birds, drunk from eating fermenting holly berries, crashed into glass office buildings and died earlier this week. Spectators said the birds were sitting in trees eating huge amounts of holly berries when they started falling out of the trees and flying into numerous buildings, shop windows, and some into the courtyard's water fountain. Park officials have now put up netting around the berries to keep the birds from eating them.

17 February 2005

Lest we forget

Andrea Dykshoorn
Editor

It happened nearly two months ago--the Christmas Day tsunami that rocked Southeast Asia with an unimaginable force after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake. Entire villages were obliterated by the massive wave, and today the death toll has reached nearly 300,000. In the days and even weeks closely following the disaster, donations and other forms of aid flooded in from individuals, churches, companies, and governments, all designated for tsunami relief. The entire world rallied around the victims of the disaster, and it was encouraged to see countries laying aside their differences and working toward a common cause.

But in recent weeks, news of the tsunami has begun to fade, replaced by such 'noteworthy' stories as the Super Bowl, the Grammy Awards, and Michael Jackson's hospitalization. Granted, a few stories of emotional appeal have emerged, such as "Baby 81", swept away during the

tsunami but finally reunited with his parents this past week. For the most part, however, the rest of the world has reverted back to everyday life.

Here in Northwest Iowa, Dordt College is about as far removed from the disaster as is geographically possible. With the halfway point of the semester rapidly approaching, students have settled into a routine of classes, procrastination, and sleep deprivation. In the meantime, four plastic water containers sit, pathetically empty and largely forgotten, at the entrance of the John and Louise Hulst Library.

Dordt prides itself on encouraging students to "Step into a larger world." To do this, however, we must recognize that a larger world does in fact exist outside the tiny bubble of Northwest Iowa. So selflessly toss a few dollars into the tsunami relief containers. Take a few minutes out of your day to stay up-to-date on current events. Think outside the box, and make an effort--because you can make a difference.

DIAMOND Opinion

Opinion Poll: Do you think the Bachelor Auction should return to Dordt this spring?

Justin Van Niejenhuis, Junior

"It is a good charity, but it amounts to selling pseudosex. Sure it is harmless, but the potential is there. I don't plan on participating. I think that you would raise more money by just asking for money."

Rebecca McPherson, Freshman

"It's a good fundraiser but if you're an insecure guy you shouldn't participate. I don't plan on participating because I have no money and I'm not interested in any Dordt guys."

Myron Kamper, Senior

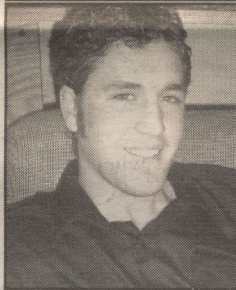
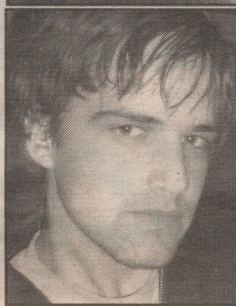
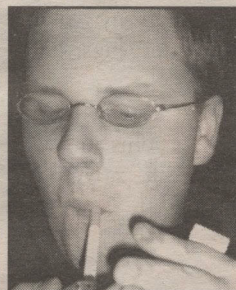
"I think it is good because it raises awareness about the issue of abortion. The people that participate understand the real meaning and aren't going to get caught up in buying people for the wrong reasons. I might be there to watch but I won't be in it."

Brian Hannink, Senior

"I disagree in principle but desperate times call for desperate measures. I think I'll be a bachelor."

Laura Ellerie, Junior

"I have been to it the past two years. The money is going to a good cause, so if the guys are willing to do it it is fine--a great way to meet new people. If they have it this year I will go."



Spring Special

coupon

\$0.75 off

any drink with the purchase of a drink of equal value at regular price.



coupon redeemable at
THE HUMBLE BEAN

offer expires March 10, 2005

JJ REED

JJ REED is regularly maintained by Emily Junkin, Staff Writer

Dear JJ Reed,

These past three weeks have been treacherous for me. For some reason, unbeknownst to myself, I have been unable to sleep at night. This perplexes me, as I always make sure I'm in bed no later than 3:30am, and I get the required 4 hours of sleep every night. Can you prescribe me some medications?

~Collapsing in Covenant

Dear "Collapsing",

Unfortunately my diploma from Spam University won't allow me to prescribe you medications. However I have some suggestions that you may find useful.

1. Contrary to popular belief here at Dordt, you need 7 to 8 hours of sleep every night, not 4.
2. Is it loneliness that's keeping Mr. Sandman at bay? Why not grab a teddy bear to keep you safe and warm?
3. Try to avoid caffeinated drinks after 8pm, they need time to get out of your system or else they'll keep you awake.
4. Tape pictures of sheep to your ceiling. Start counting.
5. Try to figure out the square root of pi with your eyes closed.

Hope this helps!



Jordan "Deep Talk" Gaier, HeMan Dan Zylstra, and Lee "Already Spoken For" Christians (l-r) are Sine Nomine. Together they performed "eine grosse Nachtmusik" for adoring fans.

Photos by Sara Prins

2005 Talent

Welcome to the 50th Annual Medallion Awards, Dordt's Talent Show of 2005!

Performances Included The Fakers, Dueling Banjos, Blame Me, Miss Jubilee, The Earthtomes, Symphony in P flat Minor, Dream, Eine Grosse Nachtmusik, Judo Know I Don't Have a Knife, Sparkle Motion, Flesh and Bone, Bringing the Banana Back and Juniper. Comedy League provided mid-show entertainment.



Top left: Cassie Lokker sings *Dream*, wowing the audience with her crystal clear voice, and walks away with first place. Top right: *The Nathan Pasma Experience*: Marcus Roskamp and Dan Michaels sing about their roommate's woes.



Above: Sparkle Motion performers Brielle Houston, Rosie Grantham, Julie Perkins, Erika Hydeon and Katy Dekens recreate *Donnie Darko's* Talent Show '88. Right: Mrs. Zylstra arrives on stage to accept flowers and be crowned Miss Jubilee. *Miss Jubilee* performing contestants look on.

17 February 2005

DIAMOND features



Mike Zwart, Micah Vogel and Travis Haveman perform a "Symphony in P Flat minor".



Its a Blast from the past with Sparkle Motion! Performers show their true colours as they reenact 'Talent Show 88' from the movie *Donnie Darko*.

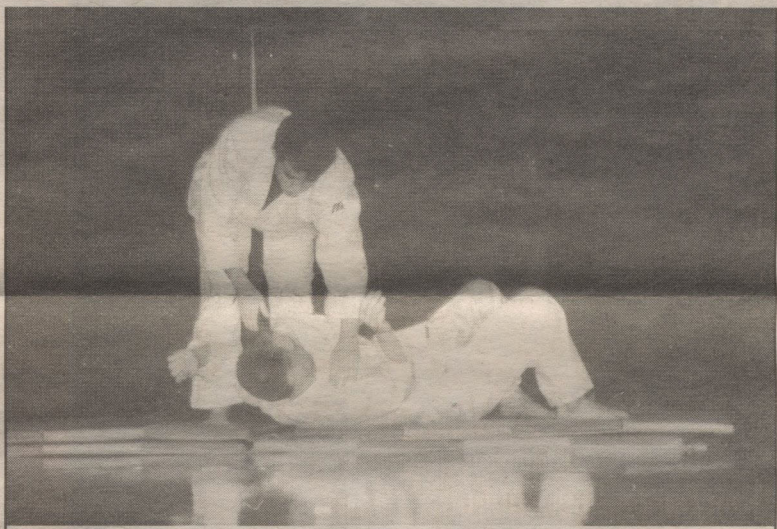
Extravaganza



Joshua DeGroot proves the soft notes strike deepest.



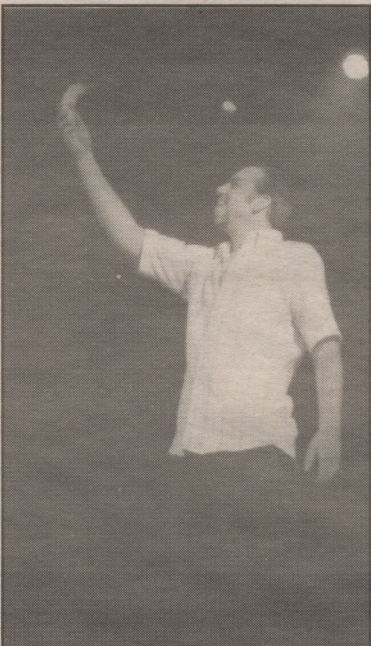
Kara "Bunny" Kuipery and Seth "no eyebrows" Shannon hosted the 50th Annual Medallion Awards. Bunny, may you rest in peace.



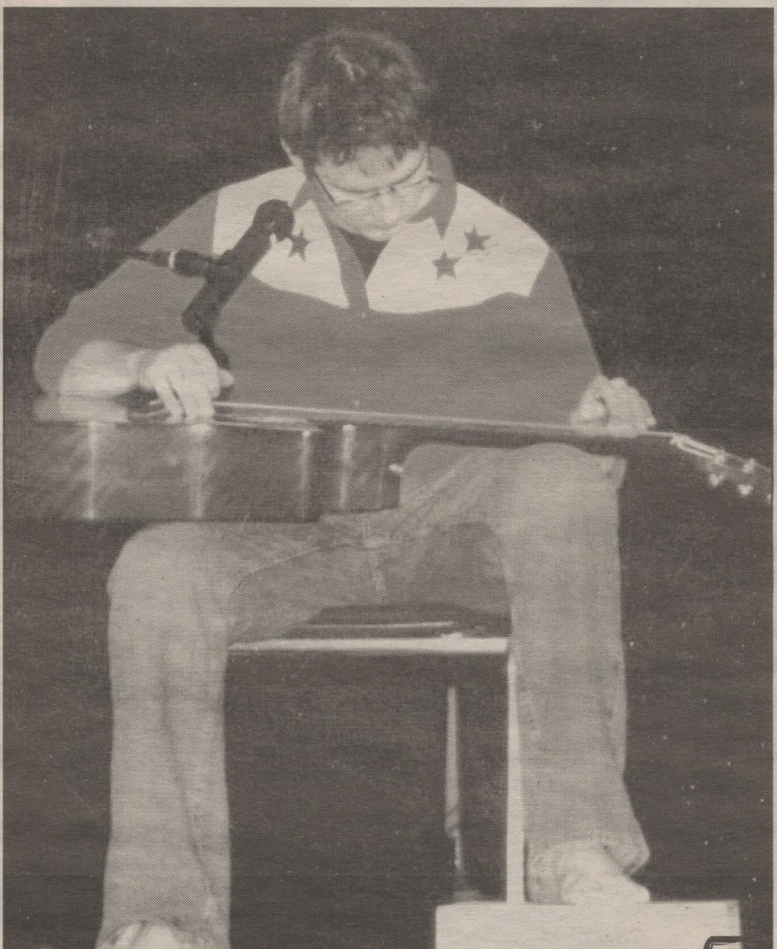
Nathan Sakuma pins Adam Wilkerson in "Judo Know I Don't Have a Knife". Also performing was Jonathan Vander Vliet.



Beth Knight receives the Best Female Actress in Obscure Documentary about Norwegian Mating Habits Award



Mike Elders returns with climactic banana finale.



Eathan Koerner performs *Flesh and Bone*.

17 February 2005

After an Ice Storm

Did you hear the wind
gasping in your numb ears
this morning, or see the trees
seated in rows and clapping their withered hands
as you passed?

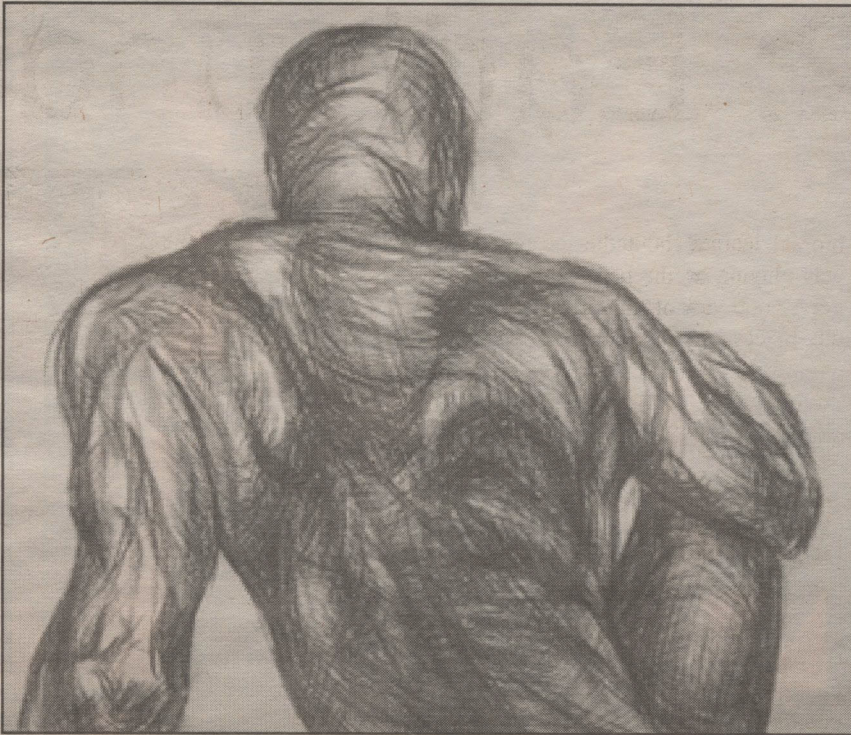
Did you see the ice below,
black and invisible as a shadow
rolled out on the sidewalk,
and did you notice the way
it turned you all into tight-rope walkers,
your arms outstretched
as you made your way to class?

You throng of down-looking circus performers,
sleep walkers,
books bagged and hanging heavy
from hunched shoulders,
eyes still weighed down
with sleep,

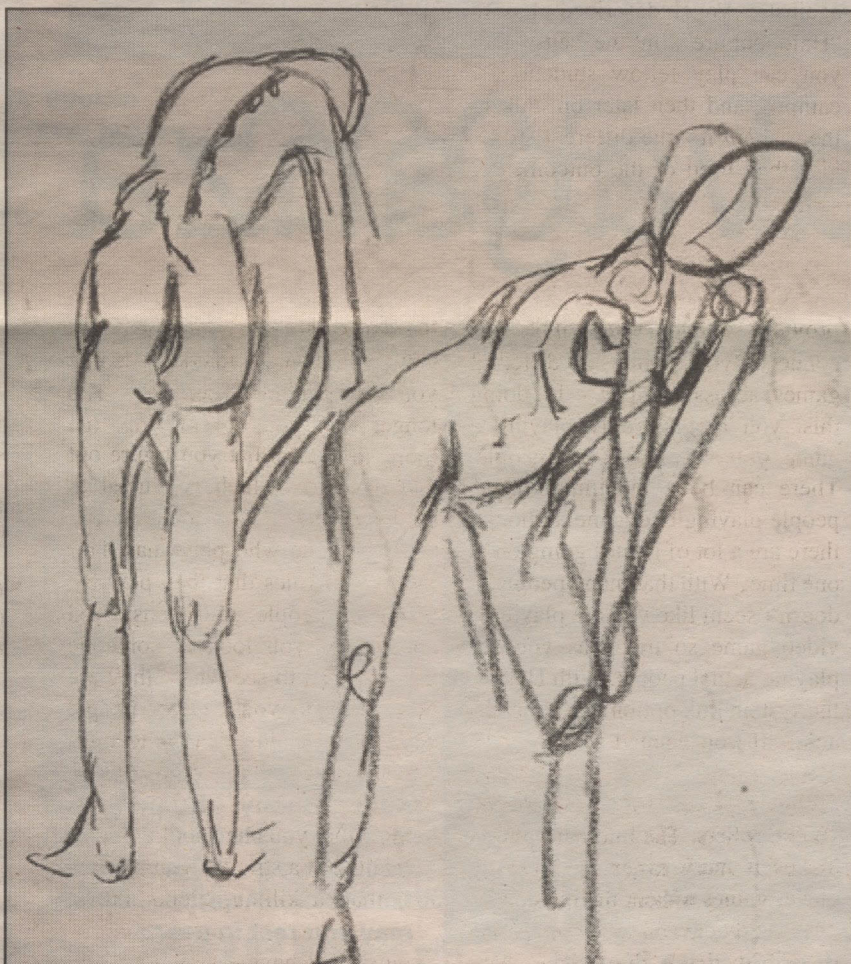
I did,

And couldn't help but wonder,
as the sun peeked over the horizon
as if through fingers,
why you made for those
squat, ugly buildings
and slipped inside without a backward look
to take a bow.

by Andrew De Young



Laurel Alons
Figure Study II
Compressed
Charcoal



Beka Schreur
Charcoal Gesture
3 minute studies
Spring 2005



Joe Hoksbergen
Taming the Tongue
Intaglio print

17 February 2005

Halo 2: Earth under attack!

Lynette Andree
Leisure Editor

On November 9, 2004, a Halo 2 craze swept the nation. People were reserving games and standing in line for over 6 hours just to guarantee that they would be one of the first to get a game. For fans of Halo 1 this was an exciting new sequel to a favourite game. No matter how much publicity Halo 2 has, there are still people who have no idea what the game is about. A lot of people assume that it is only a "killing game", which is an understandable assumption. It is a first person shooter game.

As a player, you control where you go, what you see, and what you shoot. You can find different guns and grenades. You do not want to get found and killed. "Halo 2 is so addicting that you get sucked in and you just can't stop," says Mallory Ooms. Not being an avid video-gamer myself, I decided to try out Halo 2 and see what it was all about. It wasn't too hard to find someone on campus that had the required Xbox and game. I sat down in front of the screen and was handed a controller with more buttons that I had fingers for. "There is no way that I am going to even slightly enjoy playing this game", I thought to myself.

After getting the basic instructions on what toggles did this, and what buttons did that, the game commenced. I played for about an hour, and, surprisingly enough, the time flew by. I am not by any means addicted to the game, but now I can somewhat understand why people would enjoy playing so much.

One thing that I enjoyed about the game was the thrill of the hunt. The more the game progressed, the

more I learned about the terrain I was playing on, the best places to get a good view of the terrain, and the places that the other players were most often located. The rush that comes when you find an opponent is something that can make it addicting.

In interviewing Christ Vogel, an avid player, I gained some more insight as to why this game is played by so many people. First of all, the game is different every time. The dynamics of the game change according to how many people are playing, the way that it is played, and who you are playing against. Vogel described it as a "Halo culture", in the sense that you can play fellow students on campus, and then later on, talk to them about it—the different strategies they used or the outcomes of the games. It isn't just a game, it is a way to connect to other students on campus.

There is an option that Halo 2 provides, called system link, that connects you online to different games across campus. In doing this, you are not only playing a game, you are playing real people. There can be a maximum of 16 people playing one game, although there are a lot of games going on at one time. With that many people, it doesn't seem like you are playing a video game so much as you are playing actual people. With Halo 1, the system link option wasn't available. If you wanted to play a 16 player game, you needed at least four televisions, four Xbox's, and 16 controllers. The Internet option makes it much easier to play 16 player games without the hassle.

Another reason why this game is so addicting is the feeling that you are always getting better every

time you play. The more you play, the more you learn about the levels that you are on and the other people you are playing against. The longer that you are playing, the more strategies that you figure out and develop—which is crucial to the gameplay.

Everyone who plays has their own set of rules that they play by. For most people, it is considered cheating if you look at someone else's screen to see where they are in relation to you. Other people have rules against 'camping out', which is basically waiting in one place for another player to come along so that you can shoot them.

Halo 2 is a strategy game. It is more than a killing, bloodthirsty, ruthless game. The bottom line is: if you do not have a strategy then you will not survive.



Andrea Dykshoorn

Sophomores Kim Taylor and Lynette Andree (l-r) battle it out in an intense game of Halo 2.

Check This Out!

Jubilee: A Comedy in Five Acts: at the TePaske Theatre. February 24, 26, March 2, 3, and 5 at 7:30 and a matinee on February 26 at 2:00.

Dordt Vocal: Kantorei, Chorale, Concert Choir, and Woman's Chorus will be performing at the B.J Haan Auditorium on Friday, February 25,

Organ Recital: Three organists, Laura Vander Windt, Martin Tel, and Christiaan Teeuwssen (all Dordt Alumni) will be performing in the B.J. Haan Auditorium on Friday, February 18, at 7:30 pm.

Josh Groban: Tyson Event Center, Sioux City. February 25, 8:00 pm.

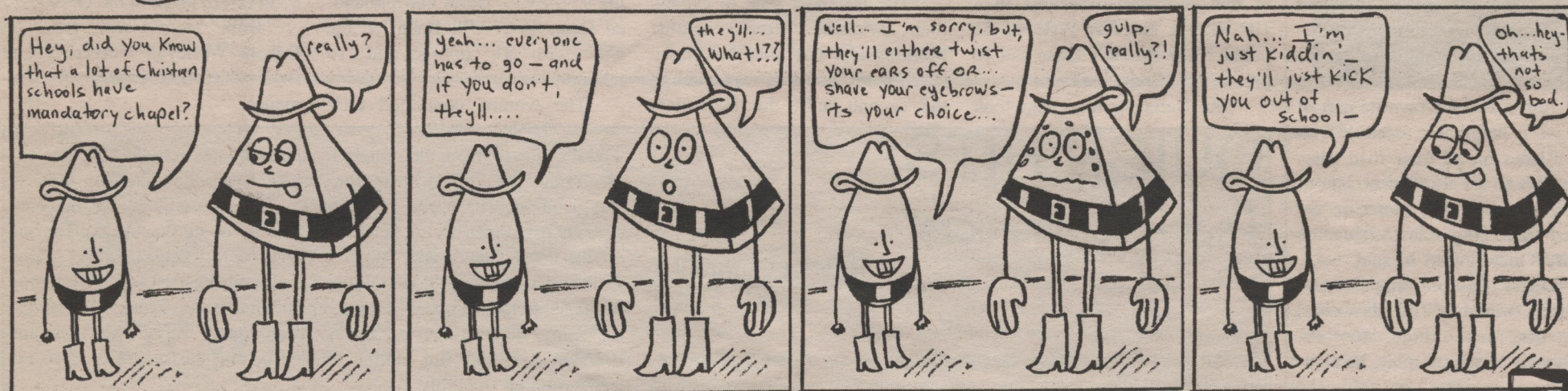
Kenny Chesney: Qwest Center Omaha, Omaha, NE. Saturday, April 23, 7:30 pm. Support: Gretchen Wilson and Uncle Kracker.

Fiddler On the Roof: Stephens Auditorium, Ames. Friday, February 25, 7:30 pm.

Mongomery Gentry: Tyson Events Center, Sioux City. February 24, 7:30pm.

Cowboy Cheese

SAM GUTIERREZ



BEHIND THE SCENES



Vanessa Patino

Aaron Dreise helps keep the Dordt Blades hockey team skating smoothly.

**Jesse Veenstra
Staff Writer**

The Dordt Blades have more than just Canadian hockey players on the team and one of these guys is Aaron Dreise, a freshman from Sioux Center, who serves as the manager for the Blades.

Aaron began to make ties to the Dordt Blades last year when he worked at the All-Seasons Center. "I worked there last year and met a lot of the guys. I would help them out sometimes and went to most of the games," he said.

He talked to a few of the guys last year and they said that he could be the manager this year. "I wanted to play but I hurt my knee. So I decided being a manager would be fun," Dreise said. Although he is not paid, he helps the team before, during, and after all games including road games. His duties include going to the arena before games and making sure that the opposing team has their roster sheet filled out correctly. He also retrieves pucks, tapes ankles and supplies water for the players.

Aaron said his favorite part of the job is being able to travel with the Blades on all their road trips. "You get to see a different side of the guys when they aren't on the ice. I like being able to hang out with all these guys," he said.

Dreise plans on being the manager or "waterboy" (in his words) for the next three seasons. Although he doesn't play, he finds ways to help the team behind the scenes.

Hockey Team Skates On

**Leslie Larson
Staff Writer**

Warm weather is here and the ice is starting to melt. However, the Blades are confident— their ice is built on a solid foundation. As their sticks chip the ice, each practice takes the team one day closer to playoffs.

The Blades were recently ranked in the top 20 out of over 100 teams in the nation. With a 17-6 record, the team has been accelerating in every aspect of the game. Hopefully this will continue through the playoffs, which will be hosted at Dordt on March 3-4. The Blades have excellent senior leadership from captain and coach Jordan Heerema, as well as the two assistant captains, Russ Van Boom and Bryan Woudstra. Also, fulfilling the role as team manager is Woudstra.

On February 11 and 12, the Blades played rival South Dakota State University at home. Heerema says, "Each player skates his heart out for rivals like SDSU and it results in a high intensity game." Dordt lost 3-1 but won the next game 5-2. Saturday resulted in a win because Dordt was much more focused as a team. By playing really tough on defense, Dordt created opponent turnovers and a quick transition game producing points.



Chad Postma

Jordan Heerema, captain of the Dordt Blades, takes the puck hard to the net. The Blades currently hold a 17-6 record, and are anticipating an exciting post-season in early March.

In early December, the Blades beat SDSU in Brookings, SD, 4-3 and 6-4.

At the beginning of the season, each player accepted his defined role and is successfully carrying it out. When team alterations had to be made due to injuries and players not returning, the remaining players were willing to learn new positions and do extra skating. Two new faces, Chris Van Huis on offense and Steve Hickox on defense, joined the team. These dif-

ferences enhanced the team's versatility and made up for a short bench.

"As a team, we are all a bunch of goofballs, as most people already know. The locker room can sound like a circus at times, but it can also be very focused and serious. Outside of the hockey rink, we are all good friends, for the most part, and we hang out and bug each other," said Heerema. "We are all one unit. The freshman really fit in good with the team, and hopefully,

they can keep the camaraderie going for the next four years," said Woudstra.

The hockey team would like to thank all the student and community fans for their past and present support. On February 18 and 19, the Blades will go to the University of South Dakota to take on the Coyotes. On March 3rd and 4th, the Blades expect to achieve their ultimate goal: winning the league championship at home at the All Seasons Center.

Basketball seasons come to a close

**Rachel Guthmiller
Sports Editor**

The Defender basketball seasons are winding down with two games left in the regular season.

Coming off a loss to Doane, the Defender men took on their rival Northwestern in search of a victory. After trailing 48-47 at half-time, the men took a brief lead in the second half, but could not hold of the Northwestern charge in a 103-90 loss. Bret Van Wyk had 21 points while Brandon Haan had 20 points and 14 rebounds.

The Defender men next took

on Dana. After trailing by 15 in the first half and holding a brief lead in the second, the Defender men lost 90-84. Haan put up a career high 30 points and had 10 rebounds.

Looking to curb their losing streak the men traveled to Martin Luther College. Holding a two-point lead at the half, the Defenders pulled out the 95-72 victory. Luke Ruter lead scorers with 26 points while Van Wyk put up 20 points, 18 of which came in the second half.

The Defender look to expand their winning streak against Morningside, but after holding a seven-point lead half-way through the second half, the Defenders

could not hold off the Mustangs in the last regular season home game and lost 73-69. Ruter had 18 points. The Dordt men are currently 14-10 and tied with Dana and Briar Cliff for 8th place in the GPAC.

On the women's side, the Lady Defenders also came up short in a 71-60 loss to Northwestern. Tara De Boer led the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

The Lady Defenders next took on Dana and came up with a blazing 91-79 win. Dordt out-rebounded Dana 46-27. Jill Haan led the way with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

The women continued their

winning streak with a come from behind 71-62 win over Martin Luther. Freshman Amanda Eekhoff led the Defenders with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

The next challenge for the Defenders was facing #2 Morningside. Dordt came up short and lost 72-61. Eekhoff put up 17 points and grabbed 16 rebounds while Lindsey Van Wyk chipped in 15 points. The Lady Defenders are currently 10-14 and are working on a 7th or 8th place in the GPAC.

Both teams will take on Dakota Wesleyan University and Briar Cliff before playoffs commence.

QUICK HITS:

Thank you seniors

**Rachel Guthmiller
Sports Editor**

All things must come to an end. And all we can do is take the memories with us and say thanks for the opportunities given to us. So it is with every athletic season and every athletic career.

Saturday night was the last regular season home game for the Defender basketball teams. Another regular season is almost to a close.

And it's time to thank the seniors for the memories provided.

Thank you, Dan Hospers, for your hard work and intensity game-in and game-out. Thank you, Bret Van Wyk, for your athleticism and being a steady performer. Thank you Katie Bleeker, for guiding the team on and off the court. Thank you, Angie Katsma, for working hard and giving your best effort when called upon. Thank you, Leslie Larson, for being dedicated to the team and keeping a positive attitude. Thanks you seniors for being captains for the teams. Thank you, Daren Dieleman and Brandon Karlsgodt, for putting time in behind the scenes to keep the teams running smoothly.

Thank you all for the memories and good luck as you battle for playoff spots.